

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 15-22.

Sub B1
1. (Unchanged) A method to achieve thermal transfer between a workpiece disposed within a chamber having a heated body disposed therein, said method comprising:

placing said workpiece at a first position within said chamber, spaced-apart from said heated body a first distance;

establishing said pressure within said chamber to be at a predetermined level;

placing said workpiece a second distance from said heated body to effectuate thermal transfer between said body and said workpiece, with said second distance being less than said first distance.

2. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 1 further including maintaining said workpiece in said second distance until thermal equilibrium between said heated body and said workpiece is achieved.

3. (Unchanged) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein establishing said pressure further includes increasing a pressure level within said chamber by filling said chamber with a gas.

4. (Unchanged) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein establishing said pressure further includes decreasing a pressure level within said chamber by evacuating said chamber.

5. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein establishing said pressure further includes filling said chamber with a nitrogen gas to achieve a pressure in a range of 25 to 100 Torr.

6. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said second distance is in a range of 0.001 to 0.009 inch.

7. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein said first distance is greater than 0.75 inch.

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cont.*
8. (Unchanged) The method as recited in claim 1 further including decreasing said pressure in said chamber to establish said pressure level to be in a range of 1×10^{-5} to 1×10^{-7} Torr.

9. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 8 further including providing a write chamber and moving said workpiece, after increasing said pressure, to said write chamber.

10. (Amended) A method to achieve thermal transfer between a workpiece disposed within a chamber having a heated body disposed therein, said method comprising:

placing said workpiece at a first position within said chamber, spaced-apart from said heated body a distance;

evacuating said chamber to a first pressure level

reducing said distance; and

evacuating, after reducing said distance, said chamber to a second pressure level, less than said first pressure level to effectuate thermal transfer between said workpiece

and said heated body while reducing thermal variations due to evacuating said chamber to said second pressure level.

11. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 10 further including pressurizing said chamber to a level in a range of 25 to 100 Torr by filling said chamber with nitrogen before reducing said distance.

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12. (Unchanged) The method as recited in claim 11 wherein reducing said distance further includes reducing said distance to position said workpiece from said heat body in a range of 0.001 to 0.009 inch.

13. (Amended) The method as recited in claim 10 wherein evacuating, after reducing said distance, said chamber, further includes evacuating said chamber to establish said pressure level to be in a range of 1×10^{-5} to 1×10^{-7} Torr.

14. (Unchanged) The method as recited in claim 11 further including providing a write chamber and moving said plate, after evacuating said chamber to said second pressure level, to said write chamber.

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Sub B
23. (New) A method to achieve thermal transfer between a workpiece and a heated body in a processing environment, said method comprising:

placing said workpiece a first distance from said heated body;

establishing a pressure of said processing environment to be at a predetermined level;

placing said workpiece a second distance from said heated body to effectuate thermal transfer between said body and said workpiece, with said second distance being less than said first distance; and maintaining said workpiece at said second distance until thermal equilibrium between said heated body and said workpiece is achieved.

24. (New) The method as recited in claim 23 wherein establishing said pressure further includes decreasing a pressure level within said chamber by evacuating said chamber.

25. (New) The method as recited in claim 23 wherein said second distance is in a range of 0.001 to 0.009 inch.

26. (New) The method as recited in claim 25 wherein said first distance is greater than 0.75 inch.

27. (New) The method as recited in claim 26 wherein establishing said pressure further includes decreasing said pressure in said chamber to establish said pressure level to be in a range of 1×10^{-5} to 1×10^{-7} Torr.

28. (New) A method to achieve thermal transfer between a workpiece and a heated body in a processing environment, said method comprising:

placing said workpiece a first distance from said heated body;

placing said workpiece a second distance from said heated body, with said second distance being less than said first distance;

maintaining conditions in said processing environment suitable to effectuate thermal transfer between said body and said workpiece; and

maintaining said workpiece at said second distance until thermal equilibrium between said heated body and said workpiece is achieved.

29. (New) The method as recited in claim 28 wherein said second distance is in a range of 0.001 to 0.009 inch.